The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul.—Addison.

WHOLE NO. 862. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1927. VOL. 17, NO. 31.

GRABBERS LOSE TEAPOT DOME; GIGANTIC STEALS ARE BLOCKED

Washington, Oct. 15.—In a unanimous decision the United States Supreme Court restored the Teapot Dome oil field to the government.

The decision declared that when Secretary of the Interior Fall leased Teapot Dome to Harry F. Sinclair, it was the culmination of a conspiracy between the two "to circumvent the law and to defeat public policy."

The decision was written by Associate Justice Butler, who also wrote the decision that the Elks Hills oil field, which was leased by Fall to Edward L. Doheny, was tainted with fraud and ordered that that property be restored to the government.

The latest decision gives no comfort to Sinclair or Fall. The latter is declared to be "a faithless public officer." The two men will shortly appear before a District of Columbia court to answer an indictment of criminal conspiracy.

The Supreme Court decisions are a triumph for the handful of Senators who stood with the late Senator La Follette in demanding that the transfers be probed. These Senators braved the wrath of powerful interests that attempted to manufacture a public opinion against an investigation.

Under the law, the Secretary of the Navy controlled the navy oil lands. The predecessor of President Coolidge transferred this control to Fall, then Secretary of the Interior. That official negotiated the transfers to Doheny and Sinclair. The presidential order and the transfers have traveled through six federal courts and in five instances the government has been upheld. The one victory for the opposition was in the federal district court of Wyoming, where Judge Blake Kennedy upheld Sinclair and his Teapot Dome lease.

Every avenue in the civil courts is now closed to the oil grabbers, and oil lands that have an estimated value of half a billion dollars, is restored to the people.

STATE POLITICIANS ASSIST COAL OWNERS

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—Pennsylvania politicians were secured by President Green of the A. F. of L. convention for the promiscuous issuance of police powers to gunmen who are paid by coal corporations.

"I can not understand how such a condition can prevail in free America," said Mr. Green. "We can remedy this condition in that boss-ridden state by serving notice on the political powers of Pennsylvania that we can mobilize the political strength of our people and drive from power those who have debauched their offices."

IDLE LABOR IN AMERICA TOTALS MANY MILLIONS

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—There are more than 1,000,000 unemployed in this country and 3,500,000 wage earners are working part time, said John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer Metal Trades Department, at the A. F. of L. convention, in discussing labor's wage declaration that wages must keep pace with production.

The coal, textile, garment and glass industries are especially hit by unemployment, the speaker said. Such a condition, he declared, reflects on those who manage industry and who "boast of our prosperity."

Wages are high only among well organized workers, said Mr. Frey. He quoted a recent statement by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics that more than 200,000 railroad common laborers received $17.a week in 1926; that the average wage in lumber camps was less, and that wages of textile workers was abnormally low.

Between 1899 and 1925, he said, industrial workers increased production 49 per cent, but their real wages in that period increased but 5 per cent. He insisted that wages should not kept pace with increased production.

The problem, he added, went to the very basis of the industrial structure, for industries can not function when employes are unable to purchase the products of labor.

Despite a much higher average of production of coal by miners in this country, compared to the output of European coal diggers, continued Mr. Frey, "the American coal miner digs coal for a lower dollar and cent wage than workers in the low-wage countries of Europe."

LABOR DISPLACEMENT AFFECTS PROSPERITY

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—"Will the continued replacement of labor by automatic machinery lead us down with chronic and steadily-increasing unemployment?" asked Secretary of Labor Davis in an address to the A. F. of L. convention.

The cabinet official indicated that no trade is immune from this invasion, and the situation is of "the gravest importance to the employer and to the country at large."

"By the figures supplied me from the Bureau of Labor Statistics," he said, "I learn that from our increase in population in the last eight or ten years, it now should take 140 men to supply the needs of the country where 100 could do so. Instead of that, and in spite of our having 20,000,000 more people, the needs of the country are supplied with 7 per cent fewer workers than we needed in 1919.

"We lower national prosperity 7 per cent if we permit 7 per cent of our workers to pass out of the consuming and buying market. In a way, whenever a man loses a job, we all lose at the same time. For business reasons we must keep our workers employed.

"In times past, the man whose place in industry was taken by a machine was left to his fate. He wandered as he could, without any help, into other occupations. Today we can not permit him to suffer distress incident to that period of sometimes painful adjustment.

"I believe public opinion will soon expect every employer to regard it as a duty to introduce no labor-saving machine without seeing to the continued employment of the men thrown out of work by the new machine. Otherwise, we do not 'save' labor, but waste it."

FLOOD VICTIMS AIDED BY NEAR EAST RELIEF

New York, Oct. 15.—Acting on the theory that "charity begins at home," the Near East Relief contributed 50,000 used shoes for children in the Mississippi flood area. The shoes were intended for 150,000 waifs in Armenia, Greece and Palestine who were orphaned during the World War.

The Near East Relief aided in relieving destitution at home, and now calls attention to Golden Rule Sunday, December 4, this year. On this occasion the Near East Relief will make its annual country-wide canvass to aid homeless children and to teach them agriculture and trades for self-support. The relief organization is chartered by Congress and is backed by churchmen of all denominations and has been approved by the American Federation of Labor.

At the convention last year it was declared that "food and clothing must be supplied and the task of training these children must be continued." Organized labor was urged to maintain its interest in their relief by financial and moral support.

Contributions and pledges of any amount may be sent to the National Golden Rule Committee, 151 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

URGE OLD-AGE PENSIONS

Detroit, Oct. 15.—Old-age pensions, to replace the costly almshouses, was urged by Judge Thomas E. O'Donnell, in speaking before the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

"The cost of maintaining an old people's pension is not nearly as great as the support of these so-called poor houses," he said.

KANSAS MINES SIGN UP

Pittsburg, Kan., Oct. 15.—More than 600 striking miners in this state returned to work when operators of four mines signed the Jacksonville agreement. About 2,000 miners are still out. More than 3,600 are working under agreements.

Federal Courts Make Two Slave Decisions

Federal Judge Grubb's decision that organized stone cutters in New York City must handle non-union stone is a slave edict.

This estimate harmonizes with what Associate Justice Brandeis said of a similar ruling by the United States Supreme Court in the Bedford (Indiana) case, on which Judge Grubb based his decision. The associate justice said:

"If, on the undisputed facts of this case, refusal to work can be enjoined, Congress created by the Sherman Law and the Clayton Law an INSTRUMENT FOR IMPOSING RESTRAINTS UPON LABOR WHICH REMINDS OF INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE."

It may be said that workers can not be forced to labor against their will. That's what the stone cutters believed, but they have been enjoined from refusing to handle non-union stone.

They also are individually liable for damages and they face criminal prosecution. In fact, several of them have been indicted and now await trial.

The Grubb decision is more sinister than the only example of repressive legislation which the trade union movement has known since the repeal of the combination laws in the first quarter of the last century."

Communists in the British trade union movement have been kicked out, declared Mr. Sherwood. His own organization, the General and Municipal Workers' Union, had over 15,000 members in London branches who refused to sign a declaration that they are not members of the Communist Party.

"We cleaned up what was a dirty mess by smashing these branches," the speaker said. "We reformed branches of loyal trade unionists on the theory that there is no room in a union for Communist activities. We told them that if they can not obey trade union rules, out you go. And out they went."

UNEMPLOYED IN SOUTH

Mobile, Ala., Oct. 15.—Gulf cities are filled with idle workers who are drifting to these sections by untrue prosperity claims. Chambers of Commerce and feature writers are responsible for these stories.

Supreme Court decision. In the latter case private corporations asked for an injunction in the lower courts and finally won in the tribunal of last resort.

In the case before Judge Grubb the Federal Department of Justice was plaintiff—the government fought for anti-union employers.

A precedent is thus created that will not be overlooked by these employers. Hereafter, when they wage war on organized labor, and these workers refuse to handle their products, the Department of Justice may take up the employers' cause and ask for an injunction against the workers on the ground that interstate commerce is interfered with.

The United States Supreme Court has sanctioned such relief in the Bedford case, on request of private employers.

In view of these two epoch-making decisions, of the government's new position and of Associate Justice Brandeis' stinging comment, citizens may well ask if serfdom has passed.

Social and Labor Conditions Differ In United States and Great Britain

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—Fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress to the A. F. of L. convention declared there can be no comparison between the two countries.

The visitors, Arthur Pugh and Will Sherwood, made this comment in discussing foreign commissions that have investigated industrial conditions in the United States.

Mr. Pugh said: "No comparison can be made between the conditions in America—with great federated but largely autonomous states; its aggregation of peoples of different race and languages—and a country like Great Britain. The nature of our respective problems—economic, industrial and political—are hardly the same."

Mr. Sherwood said England is "cursed by a very few Communists, who believe that low wages will improve industrial conditions. "This," he said, "is a reversal of the policy of the A. F. of L. and of those in authority in Washington."

Mr. Pugh declared that the national strike in his country last year was an attack on government. "All that has been said on this score is the invention of the British unions," he said, "is part of the case which the government and the coal owners put forward to justify themselves at the bar of public opinion for the role they played in the mining dispute."

The anti-trade union bill, recently forced through Parliament by the Tory Government, was declared to be "the

COMMERCE IS DIVINITY THAT COURTS WORSHIP

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—"The Constitution is nothing to our courts; interstate commerce is their god," declared Hope Thompson, Chicago labor attorney and counsel for the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, in a labor injunction address to the A. F. of L. convention.

"Interstate commerce, that gigantic, marvelous, wonderful thing, looms so high that its shadow falls across the land and tends to blot out the one great means that you and all workmen have to safeguard it—by joining yourselves in the struggle with employers," said Mr. Thompson.

The speaker declared that the Bedford stone decision by the United States Supreme Court, which compels organized stone cutters to handle non-union stone, has nullified the protection granted in the Clayton Act.

"You may ask how can such an unconstitutional decree be entered," said Mr. Thompson. "I tell you it is entered and the stone cutter today has to pack his tools and go out and cut the stone of any man, whether he wants to or not, because the stone was shipped in interstate commerce.

"Now can you imagine what will occur if it once becomes the established law of the land that an injunction may be issued to enjoin a strike for any person at all, whether it is interstate commerce or whether it is interference with property rights of any other kind."

COURTS USURP POWER IN CONTEMPT ISSUES

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—The assumption by judges that they alone have the power to decide what constitutes contempt, and to mete out such punishment for same, was challenged by Jackson H. Ralston, internationally-known lawyer, speaking at the A. F. of L. convention. Mr. Ralston, who now lives in Palto Alto, this state, was attorney for the A. F. of L. for many years.

The speaker called attention to the fact that the constitutional legislative branches of government do not assume such power.

"But when we come to a court which passes upon a question of contempt, as it is called, against its own authority, we find the whole function of charging officer, of convicting judge and of executing sheriff repose in the hands of the man most interested in the case.

"If this power were inherent in the courts, if it were innate in courts that they should have the right to declare whomever they found so guilty to be in contempt, that power would not be subject to abridgement in the case that it was subject to abridgement in the case of the Clayton Act."

AUSTRALIAN LABOR LOSES

New York, Oct. 15.—Cables from New South Wales indicate that the Labor government of that Australian Commonwealth has been defeated. The Labor Party was compelled to meet Tory opposition in front and repel Communist attacks on labor.

IMMIGRATION CHECKED

New York, Oct. 15.—The tide of labor immigration from Europe to the United States since the enactment of the immigration law, has been checked, according to the National Industrial Conference Board.

GLASS WORKERS UNITE

Toledo, Ohio, Oct. 15.—The American Flint Glass Workers' Union has chartered new locals in Washington, Pa., and Grafton, W. Va.

CHILD EXPLOITERS USE TRICKY TERMS

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—Opponents of the Federal Child Labor amendment who defend the states' "rights" and fail to insist that their states stop child labor were charged with hypocrisy bordering on criminality by the A. F. of L. convention. The delegates unanimously approved a denunciation of this element by the Committee on Labels.

"Latest reports indicate that there are approximately 1,000,000 children under 16 years of age who are engaged in gainful occupations," the committee said. "This is an indictment against states in which these children are employed, as these states insist that their 'state's rights' would be invaded if the National Government enacted legislation minimizing this evil through an amendment to the Constitution.

"Admitting, for the sake of argument, that there is grave danger in concentration of power in the National Government to regulate the affairs of the people, yet opponents of the child labor amendment have not approached the question in a fair manner, as their misrepresentation creates confusion and opposition in the minds of the people to prevent its adoption.

"While urging legislation of a protective character for our children, they have a weapon which can be effectively used in creating sentiment against the exploitation of our children, and that is the union label."

FAULTY BOOKKEEPING CONCEALS EARNINGS

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—A proper system of bookkeeping would show that the post office is a great moneymaking institution, said Edward J. Gainor, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, in speaking at the A. F. of L. convention on higher wages for post office employes.

When these employes ask for higher wages they are told the department is operating under a deficit, said Mr. Gainor. Large amounts of money spent by the department, should be charged to the Agricultural Department and other branches of the government, which the post office does work for without credit, the letter carriers' executive said.

COST OF ARMED THUGS EXCEEDS LIVING WAGE

Indianapolis, Oct. 15.—Officers of the United Mine Workers estimate that anti-union coal companies in the western Pennsylvania district are employing 4,000 coal and iron police, deputy sheriffs and gunmen.

"These 4,000 men are paid on an average $10 a day and expenses," says the United Mine Workers' Journal. "They cost the companies $40,000 a day in salaries, to say nothing of expenses. It is believed that this item alone adds $1 per ton to production costs.

"These companies could almost pay the Jacksonville scale with this money alone, if they discharged their gunmen. The communities would be happier and more prosperous."

CAN MEET AIR ATTACK WITHOUT HUMAN HAND

Washington, Oct. 15.—An anti-aircraft gun that automatically discovers and fires on planes in the air has been perfected by the Ordnance Department of the army.

The gun is controlled by a sensitive instrument which detects the position of a moving airplane by sound waves. At night a similar instrument is attached to the gun. Another device throws its beam directly upon the airplane simultaneously with the discharge of the gun.

ALIENS ARE SMUGGLED; PROFESS TO BE SEAMEN

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—Seamen's delegates to the A. F. of L. convention declare that the immigration law is being evaded by smuggling immigrants in vessels. These ships bring as high as 60 aliens, who are disguised as seamen. They leave the ship on arrival and quickly disappear in the large port cities.

In Hamburg, Germany, the smuggling was conducted on such an extensive scale that several immigration agents were arrested and jailed. The premium for landing Chinese runs as high as $1,100. The chief point for landing immigrants from Italy, Greece, Southern France, Belgium and Germany ranges from $200 to $400 per person.

The seamen's delegates asked the fraternal delegates to favor Bill No. 3574, introduced by Senator King, which would permit the government to withhold clearance papers from any vessel that did not take as many seamen out of the country as she had brought in.

UNIONISM IS BASED ON FREEDOM; IT IS NOT A "BUSINESS" PROPOSAL

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—"The trade union movement is not a business institution," said Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L., in an address at the First Presbyterian Church. The meeting was one of many held on Sunday evening in Protestant churches. Trade union officials spoke.

"Fundamentally, the trade union movement is not interested in profits, stocks or bonds," said Mr. Morrison. "Its philosophy is not a market place higgling for the price it shall receive for labor power that is inseparable from human beings.

"The cornerstone of trade unionism is collective bargaining—for the right of association that is freely granted other groups of citizens.

"The trade union movement is a challenge to the age-long dependence that workers were forced to accept. The trade unionist insists that wage workers can not aspire to a complete and well-rounded life when they must accept welfare plans or other forms of paternalism, either by the state or by the employer.

"The trade unionist looks upon paternalism as a badge of serfdom. He refuses to be considered an inferior. He demands, as a right that other elements of our citizenry has. Because he works for wages he refuses to permit a public official or a private employer to limit his life or set his standards.

"America is what it is through group action. To say that any one element in our country should be denied such group action is to doom it to be a dependent class that must live by the favors of others—is unthinkable.

"If we have the right to organize, this right should not be nullified by those who would apply the philosophy, but who insist that they select our spokesmen. If we have the right to organize, our trade unions must be permitted to function.

"Only through collective action is the individual stimulated. He thus develops an independence that is reflected in industry, on the political field and in every form of civic and community activity."

COMPANY "UNION" IS NOT UNIONISM

By WILLIAM GREEN
Editor, American Federationist

Stripped of all non-essentials, the difference between the company "union" and the trade union is that the company "union" is an extension of management's functions in an effort to facilitate communication with employes; the trade union is the creation of the workers for the purpose of managing the collective business of wage earners as workers and for expressing their experiences and their views. One is the result of executive order and the other of growth and experience.

The union selects its own experts to serve as its representatives and management, and hence union undertakings are competent to speak for labor and with independence.

The company "union" is always under management's supervision and is restrained from selecting representatives not controlled by the employing company. Their representatives have more limited experience than union officials and they have less freedom of initiative.

It is hardly a true picture to call an agreement a "collective bargain" when the parties do not have equal footing.

EQUITY JUDGES ARE TYRANTS; IGNORE GOVERNMENT BY LAW

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—The injunction process in labor disputes was assailed by speakers at the A. F. of L. convention, following a scathing report on this evil by the resolutions committee.

The committee was unsparing in its criticism and declared that it was necessary to define the jurisdiction of equity courts. Enforcement of Federal anti-trust laws, it was stated, has been directed exclusively against trade unions, though the statute was not intended for this purpose.

The abuse of the equity power is a Frankenstein that will, unless halted, "eat up the liberties of the people," declared Matthew Woll, A. F. of L. vice president. He insisted that the equity power of courts be defined. He urged repeal of anti-trust laws, enactment of a real anti-monopoly law and the acknowledgment that workers are free to organize unhampered along lines of mutual helpfulness.

Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's Union, said the Supreme Court's decision in the stone cutters' case is the most emphatic warning that has come to the working people "to recover and guard their inheritance and business."

He said the vigorous enforcement of the Sherman anti-trust law would make it impossible to hold an A. F. of L. convention except secretly in a cellar or "like the early English trade unions, oh a moor, where they buried the records."

"You have in the past blamed the judges," said Mr. Furuseth. "If you want to get relief from the misuse of equity (a beautiful name for a rotten thing) you should have the jurisdiction of the judge defined, so he will not overstep it.

"If you want to get rid of the obstacles to mutual assistance, elect legislatures which will define the equity powers, not judges who will construe them."

CHARLES SMITH PASSES ON

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—Charles Smith, business agent of the Cleveland Ohio Building Trades Council, died suddenly in a hospital near here. He was attending the A. F. of L. convention.

A. F. OF L. UPHELD IN ANTI-"RED" WAR

Los Angeles, Oct. 15.—Organized labor's anti-communist policy was upheld by fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress to the A. F. of L. convention.

The English trade unions recently severed connections with the Moscow International when Will Sherwood, one of the fraternal delegates, told the A. F. of L. convention that in his union's campaign against the "reds" it was necessary to "smash" the London branches of his union and have them reorganized by loyal members of organized labor.

In responding to these speeches, President Green referred to the address by A. A. Purcell, fraternal delegate from the British Trade Union Congress to the Atlantic City convention, two years ago, in which the visitor advised the A. F. of L. to affiliate with the Moscow Internationale.

"You may recall," said President Green, "I told him the American trade union movement would have nothing to do with the Russian Red Internationale."

President Green reciprocated the fraternal greetings of Mr. Sherwood and his colleague, Mr. Arthur Pugh, both of whom agreed that the workers of both countries should work out their problems in their own way. In responding to this sentiment, President Green said: "We concede that the British worker has a perfect right to shape his trade union policies in accordance with the requirements of the occasion. I presume if we were part of that labor movement we would be members of the British Labor Party. We believe British trade unionists know what is best for them."

PAPERS MAY CRITICISE

Jefferson City, Mo., Oct. 15.—Newspapers may criticise public officials when substantial truth is adhered to and there is absence of malice, says the Missouri Supreme Court.

The opinion states that the "plaintiff bears the burden to show the falsity of the article and the presence of express malice."

BLACK-SHIRT IDEALS GAINING IN AMERICA?

San Francisco, Oct. 15.—America is facing Black Shirt domination, according to Professor Guido Marx of Sanford University. He predicts: "At the present trend, Fascism will rule America in 10 years."

"Our liberties are stealthily being stolen," he said. "Examples of recent encroachments upon them are rather shocking in their frequency and scope."

"It is easy to cry 'radical' at every critic," he said, "but today even conservatives are becoming uneasy over judicial encroachments.

"Thoughtful people might well read and ponder over a recent article in Harper's and The Courts and Free Speech," an amazing revelation on how far we have gone from democracy.

"Liberty is a thing that was conferred upon a nation, nor does it reside within the covers of a book to be used in an emergency. It exists in the exercise and those who have not the courage and the will to exercise it can never possess it."

"I was brought up to consider myself a sovereign citizen and to state to some extent the expression of my will. Now the whole shift is toward a conception of a sovereign state and a subject citizen.

"We are fast becoming a nation of subjects, and if that doesn't lead to Fascism I do not know what Fascism means. It certainly is not a trend toward democracy."

J. E. GILES IS DEAD; WELL-KNOWN UNIONIST

Washington, Oct. 15.—J. E. Giles, chief auditor at A. F. of L. headquarters for 16 years, and president of the Stenographers, Typewriters, Bookkeepers and Assistants' Union, died in a local hospital.

Several weeks ago he sprained his ankle, but insisted on working with the ankle tightly bandaged. He was a giant in stature and the weight on the injured member developed blood poisoning.

He was well known to trade union officials throughout the country and to delegates to A. F. of L. conventions. The Executive Council forwarded flowers from Los Angeles, and President Green and Secretary Morrison telegraphed condolences to Mrs. Giles.

STEP-AT-A-TIME PLAN URGED BY HARD-HEADED BRITISHERS

Blackpool, England, Oct. 15.—The annual conference of the British Labor Party was marked by a demand for reforms along practical lines rather than for "Socialism in our time." This policy has always been urged by trade union members of the party who have placed little faith in declamation.

"The Labor Party determined to present to the nation definite pledges of workable reforms rather than vague propaganda for a distant Socialist state," said Ramsay MacDonald. This moderate position aroused the wrath of Communists who were seated as members of the Labor Party. The Communists, however, were silenced by the waves of applause from their opponents.

Jack Jones, aggressive trade union member of Parliament from Wales, nearly wrecked the conference by this reference to the House of Lords: "The only reform I am willing to give the House of Lords is chloroform." The miner showed how the Tories would be entrenched if they secured more power, which was favored by Premier Baldwin.

"I tell you as one within it," said Lord Arnold, "that the House of Lords will continue to be a fatal evil. The House of Lords is blind to the signs of the times. It is callous, selfish, cynical, inconsistent, factious, obstructive, unscrupulous and utterly reactionary."

The next general election is scheduled for 1929, but members of the Labor Party are challenging Premier Baldwin to "go to the country" now on his program of outlawing the unions and more power to the House of Lords.

The conference refused to favor British trade unions reopening negotiations with the Communist International at Moscow.

WORKERS MUST PINCH ON $1,891.48 YEARLY

Vancouver, Canada, Oct. 15.—In the street car men's arbitration proceedings here, the workers' representatives showed that wages of these employes is $600 a year below what the Dominion Department of Labor says is the average living cost for a family of five in this city.